

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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53

ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 USSS-00 OC-06 CCO-00

AID-20 SS-15 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 IO-13 A-01

EB-11 SCA-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 /170 W

----- 114967

P 171700Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4894

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 8108

LIBREVILLE FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CG

SUBJECT: LETTER BOMB EXPLODES AT UK EMBASSY

REF: KINSHASA 8102

FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL DATA ON LETTER BOMB  
THAT EXPLODED AT APPROXIMATELY 0930 SEPT 17 IN UK EMB:

1. EXTERIOR APPEARANCE: BROWN ENVELOPE OF TYPE USED  
FOR PERIODICALS OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL. APPROX. 7" X  
4-3/4" X 1/2" IN SIZE. ENVELOPE ADDRESSED IN LIGHT BLUE  
INK TO UK AMB USING FULL NAME AND TITLE BUT FORMER  
ADDRESS OF EMBASSY. "PAR AVION" ALSO HANDWRITTEN IN  
STYLE WHICH LEADS BRITISH OFFICIALS TO BELIEVE IT  
WRITTEN BY PERSON OF FRENCH SCHOOLING. LETTER AIR-  
MAILED FROM PARIS WITH MACHINE ISSUED POSTAGE TO VALUE  
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OF FRANCS 17.50. ENVELOPE WEIGHED 8-10 OZ.

2. CONTENTS: PAPERBACK TYPE BOOK SIZE 6-1/2" X 4-1/2" X 1/2". TITLE: "THE BLUFFER'S GUIDE, YOU WAY IN MARKETING".

3. EXPLOSIVE: TWO TO THREE OZ. DARK BLACK MATERIAL SPECKED WITH WHITE CRYSTALS WITH CONSISTENCY OF PLIABLE TAR. FAINT SMELL OF NITROGLYCERINE DISCERNIBLE. SECURITY OFFICER FROM ISRAELI EMB SPECULATED EXPLOSIVE MIGHT BE TYPE 808 OR "ALMOND SOAP". ORDINANCE OFFICER ATTACHED TO US MILITARY MISSION WHO EXAMINED BOMB, BELIEVES TYPE 808 TO VOLATILE TO SURVIVE MAILED AND THAT MATERIAL PROBABLY NOT TYPE 808. HOWEVER, HE CANNOT IDENTIFY EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL.

4. DETONATING DEVICE: SMALL ELECTRIC COPPER BLASTING CAP (POSSIBLY SIMILAR TO NO. 6) POWERED BY SMALL FLAT NICKLE CADMIUM BATTERY CONNECTED TO STRIPS OF TIN FOIL CONTACTS GLUED TO OPPOSITE PAGES OF BOOK. CONTACTS WERE SEPARATED BY CARDBOARD INSULATOR GLUED TO ENVELOPE.

5. EXPLOSION OCCURRED WHEN BOOK WITHDRAWN APPROXIMATELY 1-1/2". BLASTING CAP APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN IMPROPERLY POSITIONED AND NOT IN LINE WITH EXPLOSIVE, THEREFORE, ONLY BLASTING CAP AND SMALL AMOUNT OF CHARGE ACTUALLY DETONATED, MANGLING HAND OF U.K. SECURITY OFFICER BUT NOT INJURING TWO BYSTANDERS. IF FULL CHARGE HAD DETONATED, EXPLOSIVE EXPERT BELIEVES ALL THREE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.

6. EMB HAS OBTAINED SAMPLE OF EXPLOSIVE FOR ANALYSIS AND REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORWARDING. PHOTOS AND DRAWINGS OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WILL BE SENT NEXT AIRPOUCH. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, BOMB DAMAGE, POSTAL SERVICE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973KINSHA08108  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** KINSHASA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730930/aaaaawda.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION SY  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** KINSHASA 8102  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LETTER BOMB EXPLODES AT UK EMBASSY  
**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, CG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005